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REPORT

COUNTRY East Germany

SUBJECT Mine-Laying Exercise in Rudolstadt

DATE DISTR. 22 February 1956

NO. OF PAGES 2 25X1

PLACE
ACQUIRED

NO. OF ENCLS. 25X1

DATE OF INFO.

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO. 25X1

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On 9 December 1955, the following observations were made in Rudolstadt:

the Flak Kaserne (8461) was occupied by at least 1,000 soldiers most of whom wore black-bordered black epaulets with engineer insignia and blue-bordered black epaulets with signal insignia. Some 30 soldiers practiced laying of mines, presumably TMER-type mines, in the west section of the installation. Judging from the noises heard, the mines were of sheet metal. The mines were laid by a special one-man device, which was towed by a truck. Two adjustable, U-shaped rails were fixed to the axle. The rails, which were 2 meters apart and had the width of a mine, ran from the rear of the truck to the ground in an angle of approximately 45 degrees. Two soldiers on the truck pushed out one mine in the rails, the lower end of which was presumably equipped with a mechanism to release the mines, since intervals between the laid mines were very regular. After 30 mines had been laid 2 meters apart and at intervals of 5 to 8 meters, the 30 soldiers ran to the mines, with each man taking up one mine; on an order, the soldiers turned right and/or left and proceeded into both directions 5 to 15 paces. On another order, the mines were laid down in a chessboard-like arrangement. Individual mines remained at their first position. Thus, a rather large area can be mined with a truckload of mines within a short time.

Comment. For sketch, see Annex. The mine-laying device was observed for the first time. The Flak Base was believed to be occupied by the 380th Engr Bn/VXVIII Cde Mts Rifle Corps. 25X1

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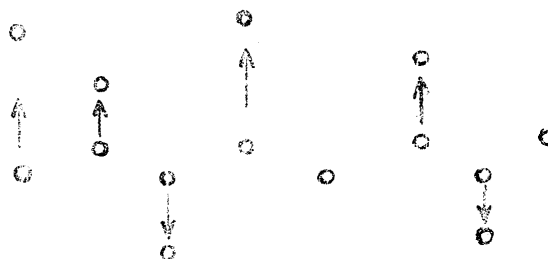
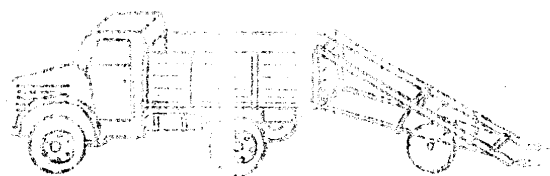
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GERMAN THORNTON RECOVERED BY
TRUCK TO WING MINE-LAYING DEVICE AT RIGHT.
DECEMBER 1955. SECRET/NOFORN



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